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GLENDALÉ ✋ JORDAN MEADOWS ✋ POPLAR GROVE " ROSE PARK  
STATE FAIRPARK ✋ WESTPOINTE/WEST SALT LAKE ✋ DOWNTOWN/  
RIO GRANDE ✋ CAPITOL HILL ✋ BALLPARK /PEOPLE'S FREEWAY ✋

WEST/CENTRAL SALT LAKE CITY

## Children's Environmental Health & Environmental Justice Project NEWSLETTER

### ✋ What is this Project?

The Children's Environmental Health & Environmental Justice Project began in the fall of 2009 when federal, state, and local agencies came together to work on a federally-funded environmental justice project that pools their collective resources and expertise on the best ways to improve children's health in the west/central area of Salt Lake City, UT.

Since then, a number of organizations have joined the founding agencies to begin improving children's health and the environment. Currently, the project team is working on a plan to conduct a needs assessment in the community. Once this assessment is done, the team will begin working closely with community leaders

and residents to talk about how they begin solving community issues and improving the community's quality of life.

The long term goal of the project is to reduce environmental impacts on children's health through the promotion of healthier environments where children live, learn, and play. We also hope to use the lessons learned to guide the design and implementation of future community-based collaborative projects to further our ability to address local and environmental challenges in more effective, efficient, and sustainable ways.

### ✋ Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

It's been over a year since we officially began this project in Salt Lake City. Since then, we have built a solid group of organizations to accomplish the goal of improving children's environmental health through collaboration and community-based problem solving.

We've also been busy preparing for a commu-

nity environmental health needs assessment (page 2) in addition to hosting a highly successful kick-off event in October 2010 (page 3). We are excited about all we have accomplished together and thought this newsletter would be a great way to share it.

If you have ideas about content for the newsletter please give our project

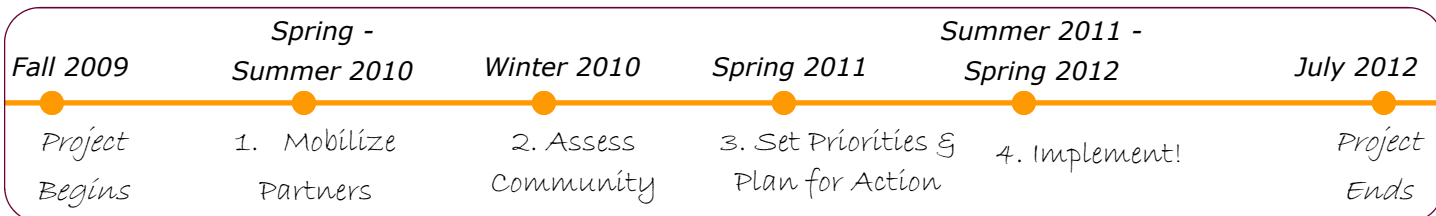
leaders a call or send them an email. See page 4 for their contact information.



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## Where Are We Now?



## Community Environmental Health Needs Assessment Update



There are three main parts to the community environmental health needs assessment (**Step 2** above). First, we will be engaging community residents to identify the environmental health concerns most relevant to them. Second, federal, state and local agencies will gather existing environmental and health data in and around the communi-

ties. The third part in the process will be to objectively analyze and rank environmental health hazards to children based on the data collected. Upon completion of the community assessment, we will work closely with the communities to jointly set priorities and plan for action (**Step 3** above). Please contact Alicia Aalto to learn more or become involved: [aalto.alica@epa.gov](mailto:aalto.alica@epa.gov)



## Our Kick-off Event was a Huge Success!

On Saturday, October 9th we held our kick-off event at the Day-Riverside Library in conjunction with celebrating Children's Health Month. The event featured over a dozen booths from children's health-related organizations, a river clean-up, free asthma testing, garden planting, lead object testing, an interpretive dance, an art mural, children's games, and much more.

The primary purposes of the event were to: (1) raise awareness to important children's health issues; (2) inform the community about the

Salt Lake Tribune article on the kick-off event:

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/home/50443523-76/health-environmental-lake-salt.html.csp>

project; and (3) invite community-level involvement.

During the event, participating organizations also signed the MOU as formal initiative participants (see box at right).

An estimated 250 people attended.



### Formal Initiative Participating Organizations:

1. Jordan Meadows Community Council
2. Multicultural Health Network of Utah
3. Salt Lake City
4. Salt Lake Valley Health Dept.
5. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
6. Utah Dept of Environmental Quality
7. Utah Society for Environmental Education

## Project Hopes and Dreams

As part of a nationwide initiative to address environmental justice challenges, Salt Lake City was chosen as one of 10 EPA Environmental Justice Showcase Communities to participate. This project is

an opportunity for new ways of collaborating between agencies and the community.

As participating organizations, we are invested in the outcome of improving children's health through reductions to exposures and risks from environmental hazards. Some of the outcomes we hope for are: (1) the community to see value in the project and take ownership for future achievements; (2) residents

to have access to information to make decisions that can help improve their health and quality of life; (3) to build strong relationships so that communication flows easily amongst everyone involved.

In future newsletters we will include feedback received from the community so their interests, ideas, and hopes are woven into the outcomes of the project as well.



## The National Children's Study vs. this Project

The *National Children's Study* is a nationwide study tracking children from birth to 21 years of age. The study will attempt to determine how children's health is influenced by environmental, biologic and social factors. Visit: [www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.nationalchildrensstudy.gov/Pages/default.aspx)

The *Children's Environmental Health & Environmental Justice Project* is a Salt Lake City-based initiative looking at how local organizations can combine resources to work with communities to reduce environmental risks and create healthier places for children to live and play.



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### OUR GOAL:

To make a positive difference to the environmental health of children through collaboration and community problem solving.

